A Summing up. Letter of Joseph Smith.

We have shown by the old pioneers of Burlington, Wis. where Mr. Strang lived before and after his call to the Presidency of the church that he was a good citizen, an honest man and of good repute; we have also shown by the ablest journalists of Michigan that he was behind none in the house of representatives in point of honor, talent and usefulness to the country. By these testimonials we have proved the slandering elders of Utah and the Josephites a body of liars—such Elders as Roberts of Utah and Blair of Iowa.

These Elders stand impeached by as good men as ever were sworn in court. So far as talent, honesty and moral character go, we are willing to rest our case, believing the court—after hearing (or reading) the witnesses we have summoned—will say the slandering Elders are all liars, and stand impeached before the church and the world.

Having clearly shown that Mr. Strang possessed all the natural ability to justify the world in upholding him as a Prophet of the God of heaven, we assert that he was called and ordained to that authority; and that he held all the priesthood that any Prophet has held, we will now prove.

It has been stated that Joseph was not to have a successor Brigham Young was the first to teach this infidel doctrine after the death of Joseph.

Three times Joseph told his people if he was taken God would plant another in his stead.

While Brigham, Woodroof and all Utah, with a few exceptions, testify that God did not plant another, but placed the "Twelve" as heads of the Body of Christ which made it a Dragon or Body with "twelve" heads. These are false witnesses before God and man.

Reader do not fear to own the truth, if it sends all Utah to hell. They are no better than the old Jewish Rabbis who lied about Christ and the Apostles.

We have proved by Joseph there was to be a man planted to fill his place. We will now show by Joseph how the planting was to be done;

1. It was not to be done until Joseph was taken. See sec. 43, 3d par. Utah ed.

2 None was to be appointed except through him.

The reader should not confound the appointment with the ordination. It is clearly shown by Mr. Smith that he was to have power to appoint only, hence all Utah and Josephites who claim Joseph ordained them and that he did it before he was taken were false witnesses and stand impeached before the court and the world.

Joseph said God would plant another and told how it would be done—and even when.

The question is, did Joseph and God do as they promised? We say they did, appoint and ordain as God and Joseph had promised the church. Our best witness on this is Joseph Smith. His testimony will be taken in heaven, on earth or in prison. He told us in this letter we introduce, first how the appointment was made. Read the letter carefully and honestly and believe it, for it is the truth.

He tells us he was on the hill of the temple and went away to enquire how the church could be saved. He then and there had a vision, and tells us what the God of heaven told him relative to the church and his successor.

We present Mr. Smith as a witness by way of this letter which he dictated and

sent to Mr. Strang. In this letter was the appointment, signed and sealed in a business way by Mr. Smith himself.

Many have claimed this letter was only to Mr. Strang, but by taking pains, you will find God, by Joseph, spake to the church and to his Apostles and told them by (or through) Joseph what to do. But they rejected God, Joseph and the whole vision.

This appears to have been the last Vision Joseph had. Last or not, it was one of the greatest of his life. In this God told him his fate and the fate of the church.

Thus we have proved by Joseph that Mr. Strang was duly called, and we now say a few things on the ordination.

First, the Successor was to be ordained as God had told us before. In June 1830, God told us how Joseph and Oliver were ordained, to-wit: by Peter, James and John (angels.) Then the Successor was to be ordained in the same way.

Mr. Strang is our next witness. He tells us that on the 27th of June 1844, at 5½ o'clock in the afternoon angels appeared to him and anointed and ordained him to the Presidency of the church. This we affirm was the truth.

But there are two awful lies told on Joseph that we wish to expose.

Woodroof says that Joseph said that he (Joseph) held all the keys, powers and authority that any man ever held on earth.

Enoch and elijah held the power and the keys to translate; Jesus, the son of Man, child of Joseph and Mary, held the keys of the Reserection. Joseph never claimed any of these keys.

Second, Woodroof (by Roberts) says Joseph conferred all the keys, powers and authority that he ever had upon the Twelve. This we will not call a lie, yet we say it is not the truth. We don't believe Mr. Smith was such a fool as to make such statements. The reader can dispose of it as he pleases.

We have now shown Mr. Smith did appoint Mr. Strang and angels did ordain him to the Prophetic office.

Having shown Mr. Strang was no such a man as Blair, Roberts, & Co. tried to make out, also that Mr. Strang was duly called of God and ordained by Angels, we submit this effort to the saints and public, asking all noble and honorable people to read and love the truth.

L. D. HICKEY.

Letter of Joseph Smith to James J. Strang.

Nouvoo, June 18, 1844.

My Dear Son:—Your epistle of May 24th, proposing the planting a Stake of Zion in Wisconsin, and the gathering of the Saints there, was duly received, and I, with most of the brethren whose advice I called in, were of opinion that you was deceived by a spirit not of this world, great but not good. Brother Hyrum, however, thought otherwise, and favored the project, not doubting it was of God. I, however, determined to return you an unfavorable answer for the present But, Oh! the littleness of man in his best earthly state! Not so the will of the Almighty. God hath ruled it otherwise, and a message from the throne of grace directed me as it hath inspired you, and the faith which thou hast in the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel, hath been repaid to thee a thousand fold, and thou shalt be like unto him; but the flock shall find rest with thee, and God shall reveal to thee his will concerning them.

I have long felt that my present work was almost done, and that I should soon be called to rule a mighty host, but something whispers me it will be in the land of spirits, where the wicked cease from troubling and the bands of the prisoner fall off. My heart yearns for my little ones, but I know God will be a father to

them, and I can claim face to face the fulfillment of promises from him who is a covenant keeping God, and who sweareth and performeth and faileth not to the uttermost.

The wolves are upon the scent, and I am waiting to be offered up, if such be the will of God, knowing that though my visage be more marred than that of any, it will be unscarred and fair when archangels shall place on my brow the double crown of martyr and king in a heavenly world.

In the midst of darkness and boding danger, the spirit of Elijah came upon me, and I went away to inquire of God how the Church should be saved.

I was upon the hill of the Temple. The calm father of waters rolled below changeless and eternal. I beheld a light in the heavens above, and streams of bright light illuminated the firmament varied and beautiful as the rainbow gentle, yet rapid as the fierce lightning.

The Almighty came from his throne of rest. He clothed himself with light as with a garment. He appeared, and moon and stars went out. The earth dissolved in space. I trod on air and was bourn on wings of Cherubims. The sweetest strains of heavenly music thrilled in my ear, but the notes were low and sad as though they sounded the requiem of martyred Prophets.

I bowed my head to the earth and asked only wisdom and strength for the Church. The voice of God answered: My servant Joseph, thou hast been faithful over many things and thy reward is glorious; the crown and scepter are thine, and they wait thee. But thou hast sinned in some things, and thy punisement is very bitter. The whirlwind goeth before, and its clouds are dark, but rest followeth, and to its days there shall be no end. Study the words of the vision for it tarrieth not.

And now behold my servant James J. Strang hath come to thee from far for truth when he knew it not, and hath not rejected it, but had faith in thee, the Shepherd and Stone of Israel, and to him shall the gathering of the people be, for he shall plant a stake of Zion in Wisconsin, and I will establish it: and there shall my people have peace and rest and not be moved, for it shall be established on the prairie on White River, in the lands of Racine and Walworth: and behold my servants James and Aaron shall plant it, for I have given them wisdom, and Daniel shall stand in his lot on the hill beside the river, looking down on the prairie, and shall instruct my people, and shall plead with them face to face.

Behold my servant James shall lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of Zion, and my servant Aaron shall be his counsellor, for he hath wisdom in the gospel, and understandeth the doctrines, and erreth not therein.

And I will have a house built unto me there of stone, and there will I show myself to my people by many mighty works, and the name of the city shall be called Voree, which is, being interpreted, garden of peace, for there shall my people have peace and rest and wax fat and pleasant in the presence of their enemies.

But I will again stretch out my arm over the river of waters, and on the banks thereof shall the house of my choice be. But now the city of Voree shall be a stronghold of safety to my people, and they that are faithful and obey me I will there give them great prosperity, and such as they have not had before; and unto Voree shall be the gathering of my people, and there shall the oppressed flee for safety, and none shall

hurt or molest them.

And by this shall they know that I have spoken it; the people there and the owners of the land shall show kindness to them, for great calamities are coming on the church, and such as have not been, and if they scatter, the ungodly of the world shall swallow them up, but if they gather to my city of Voree there will I keep them under the shadow of my wings, and the cities from whence my people have been driven shall be purged with a high hand, for I will do it, and my people shall be again restored to their possessions; but dark clouds are gathering, for the church is not yet wholly purged.

And now I command my servants, the Apostles and Priests and Elders of the church of the Saints, that they communicate and proclaim this, my word, to all the saints of God in all the world, that they may be gathered unto and round about the city of Voree and be saved from their enemies, for I will have a people to serve me.

And I command my servant Moses Smith that he go unto the saints with whom he is acquainted, and unto many people, and command them in my name to go unto my city of Voree, and gain inheritance therein, and he shall have an inheritance therein, for he hath left all for my sake; and I will add unto him many fold if he is faithful, for he knows the land and can testify to them that it is very good.

So spake the the Almighty God of heaven. Thy duty is made plain, and if thou lackest wisdom ask of God, in whose hands I trust thee, and he shall give thee unsparingly, for if evil befall me thou shalt lead the flock to pleasant pastures. God sustain thee.

JOSEPH SMITH.

JAMES J. STRANG.

This letter was received at Burlington by regular course of mail, coming through the distributing office at Chicago, and bears the Nouvoo post-mark of June 19, the day following its date. It arrived at Burlington July 9th, and was immediately taken from the office by C. P. Barnes, Esq., a distinguished lawyer at that place, who, in consequence of the rumors of persecution and civil war against the Mormans, and a general anxiety to hear the latest news, immediately carried it to Mr. Strang, with the request to be informed of any news of public interest which it might contain. It therefore became public the same evening.

As much pains has been taken to belie this document and to derogate from its authority, it is proper to add that from the day of its reception to this (April. 1848.) it has always been kept open to public inspection, and not an iota of evidence has yet been produced derogatory to its authenticity. The Brighamites and other apostates have reported far and near that it had a black post-mark, and that such were not used is the office at Nauvoo. This report is a falsehood. The post-mark is red. They also started a story that no proper entry of the mailing of such a letter could be found in the register of "mails sent" from Nouvoo. But Mr. Strang caused the register to be examined, and under date of June 19th, 1844, the proper entry was found of such a letter to the distributing P. O. at Chicago, and the register at Burlington of "mails received" contains the proper entry from Chicago. In the winter of 1845-6 these facts were publically proclaimed in the Temple at Nouvoo by Moses Smith, Samuel Shaw, and others, and an examination of the registers called for. The next day crowds were at the P. O. to inspect the register. But, though the register of every other quarter from the establishment of that P. O. was safely there, that particular quarter was nowhere to be found. It has never since been produced. Comment is unnecessary.